those officials and family members who stayed back to the municipal limits of Delhi and suspension of all overflight facilities available to Pakistan or Pakistan Airlines with effect from 1st January, 2002. India has also handed over to Pakistan a list of 20 fugitives from law with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India.

Government remains firmly committed to countering the threat of cross border terrorism and to preserving India's security.

Pendency of Applications at Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad

1233. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad is finding it extremely difficult to clear the pending passport applications resulting in harassment of the passport seekers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to redress the problem;

(c) whether Government are consistently receiving request for opening of passport offices at Surat and Rajkot in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Government is aware that the Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad has a substantial pendency of passport applications.

(b) The volume of applications received in Passport office Ahmedabad has increased substantially. In 1999 the number of applications received by RPO Ahmedabad was 1,70,541 which rose to 1,89,776 in 2000 and to 2,35,811 in 2001. The Government is dealing with the increasing volume of work by a greater degree of computerisation, introduction of machine writing of passports and transferring additional staff from other Passport Offices to Ahmedabad.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to open a Passport Office at Surat. Staff

for deployment at Passport Office, Surat have also been earmarked. State Government of Gujarat has been asked to provide a building to open the new office.

List of Additional terrorists

1234. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to handover a list of additional 112 terrorists to Pakistan and America; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government have taken up, with several countries, the issue of apprehending and handing over of fugitives from Indian law residing in those countries. This includes the list of 20 fugitives from law handed over to Pakistan on 31st December 2001 who have been granted safe haven in Pakistan.

Government are committed to taking all necessary and appropriate measures to deal with this issue.

Railway Expertise to Iraq In exchange of Oil

1235. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after bartering oil for food, Government plan to officer its expertise in railways to Iraq in exchange for oil;

(b) whether UN sanction against Iraq has still not been lifted; and

(c) if so, what are the facts of the case and the action taken by Government to strike the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) The UN sanctions against Iraq continue to be in force and exports to Iraq from all countries including India, are governed by "Oil for Food Programme" administered by the United Nations. This